

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 049211

EXDIS

FOL RPT GENEVA 1553 ACTION SECSTATE 3 MAR 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T GENEVA 1553

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

DEPT PLEASE PASS NSC, OSD, JCS

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LOS - JAPAN

REF: A. GENEVA 1512, B. TOKYO 2827

1. REF A INDICATES THAT BECAUSE OF SERIOUS DOMESTIC
POLITICAL PRESSURES JAPAN, HOWEVER RELUCTANTLY, MAY DO
SIGNIFICANT HARM TO US NATIONAL SECURITY OBJECTIVES IN

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STRAITS. DIRECT IMPACT OF JAPANESE OPPOSITION TO OVER-
FLIGHT, SUBMERGED PASSAGE, AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN STRAITS
ON MANY LOS CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS, AS WELL AS INDIRECT
EFFECT OF AROUSING PORFOUND SOVIET SUSPICIONS, ARE LIKELY
TO BE SERIOUS. 'MOREOVER, PUBLIC JAPANESE POSITION COULD
OVER TIME HAVE DIRECT IMPACT ON US OPERATIONS OFF JAPAN,
DESPITE INTENT TO CONTRARY.)

2. ACCORDINGLY, I BELIEVE THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL MERIT IN RECOMMENDING THAT THE PRESIDENT EXPRESS HIS CONCERN OVER STRAITS ISSUE TO JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER. THE PRESIDENT NEED NOT GO INTO DETAIL, ALTHOUGH LANGUAGE SHOULD BE BROAD ENOUGH TO COVER OUR CONCERNS ABOUT BOTH UNILATERAL JAPANESE LEGISLATION AND JAPANESE POSITION ON STRAITS AT LOS CONFERENCE. THE PRESIDENT MIGHT REFER TO MY PROJECTED VISIT WITH JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER IN TOKYO MARCH 26 AS APPROPRIATE OCCASION TO GO INTO SUBSTANCE OF MATTER, PARTICULARLY SINCE VISIT IS FIRST LEG OF TRIP TO MALACCA STRAITS STATES FOR VERY PURPOSE OF PROTECTING MUTUAL US-JAPANESE NAVIGATION INTERESTS IN STRAITS AND ARCHIPELAGOS.

3. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT SINCE PRIMARY DIRECT JAPANESE INTEREST IN FREE NAVIGATION AND FREE TRANSIT OF STRAITS RELATES TO COMMERCIAL (PARTICULARLY TANKER) TRAFFIC, US ABILITY TO SECURE JAPANESE COOPERATION ON MILITARY ASPECTS WOULD BE UNDERCUT SHOULD THE ADMINISTRATION FAIL TO OPPOSE NEW LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING UNILATERAL CONTROL OVER FOREIGN TANKER TRAFFIC OFF US COAST THAT IS NOT ENTERING OR LEAVING US PORTS, AS THIS WOULD CONCEDE AND ENCOURAGE SIMILAR (IF NOT BROADER) ASCERTIONS OF CONTROL BY OTHER COASTAL STATES. (SIMILAR NEGOTIATING PROBLEM WOULD ARISE WITH CERTAIN OTHER STATES CURRENTLY SUPPORTING FREE TRANSIT, INCLUDING SOME ARABS.) MY MEMORANDUM OF LAST WEEK OUTLINES OTHER REASONS WHY ACTION DIRECTED ONLY TO VESSELS USING US PORTS (POSSIBLY
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ACCOMPANIED BY PARALLEL CANADIAN AND MEXICAN ACTION) IS MOST DESIRABLE AND EFFECTIVE MEANS TO ACHIEVE ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR US COASTAL AREAS. IF THIS IS THE APPROACH WE DECIDE ON, THERE MIGHT BE MERIT IN MENTIONING THE RELEVANCE OF OUR DECISION TO AVOID ENCOURAGING FOREIGN COASTAL STATE CLAIMS TO JAPANESE GLOBAL TRADE AND NAVIGATION INTERESTS.

4. ODS AND JCS REPS HERE CONCUR.CATTO

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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